

(b) Government of India would respond positively if an offer for talks by the NDFB on the same lines as with BLT is received.

(c) The Govt. has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam including BAC areas under control. These include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-military forces and army in the State, coordinated action by army, Para-military forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of insurgency affected States as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernisation/upgradation of State police Force. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Unconditional Talks with Militant Groups in North East

1223. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to have unconditional dialogue with different militant groups in North East - such as ULFA, NDF(B), and Tripura Militants, Karbi Militants, NSCN(K) etc; and

(b) whether Government would declare ceasefire with ULFA as gesture to create a conducive atmosphere for a fruitful dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

Complaint by Minorities Commission on the Plight of Refugees from Afghanistan

1224. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minorities Commission has complained about the plight of Indian refugees arriving from Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the action taken to help such refugees who are living in penury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Indian refugees have arrived from Afghanistan. However, due to prolonged war and ethnic conflict in Afghanistan from 1980 onwards, a large number of Afghan nationals migrated to India. To facilitate their stay in India, as per present policy, Afghan nationals who came to India with valid travel documents/ passports are being granted six monthly extensions for their stay in the country. The present extension is valid upto 30th June, 2001.

Work Permits for Bangladeshis

1225. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he had once said that Government proposed to introduce work permits for the Bangladeshis;
- (b) how far has the proposal gone ahead; and
- (c) by when it will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The proposal of Work Permit to Bangladeshis and reciprocal arrangement for Indians is presently at the discussion stage between the Governments of India and Bangladesh.

Implementation of Central Laws

1226. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government are taking to ensure the implement of Central Laws in the States, particularly relating to the dalits and the tribals in the face of rejection of proposal for creation of federal police by the Chief Ministers; and
- (b) whether there is any proposal to effect amendment to the Constitution to have a federal police to meet the point that law and order is a State subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Law enforcement and management of law and order, security, crime prevention and crime detection are the responsibility of the States as Public Order is a State Subject under the Constitution of India. Therefore, all offences irrespective of being either under Central or State laws are investigated by the police except those which are specifically investigated by the Central Agencies.

(b) No, Sir.